Laying of Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded broad gauge line

2106. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) as he had approved and announced during the Budget Session about laying of Wardha-Yavatmal-Nanded broad gauge line, by when the laying of rails would commence and what is the time-schedule for its completion; and

(b) as this broad gauge line would cater to passenger, goods and movement of coal traffic, whether these factors would be kept in view to determine adequacy of stations to give further fillip for fuller utilization of this long-awaited facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As per budget announcement, action on this project will be taken after the receipt of approval from Government of Maharashtra on the cost sharing of the project. State Government was requested to share at least 40% of cost as a special case in view of difficult conditions amongst farming community in Vidharbha region. State Government has consented for meeting the cost of earthwork and ballast which less than 40%. Since the offer of State Government is much less than 40%, they have been asked to share at least 40% cost of the proposed line.

(b) Does not arise.

Medical facility in trains

†2107. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that even after the independence there is no medical facility in the trains and in the name of medical facility only a first aid-box is kept with the guard;

(b) the arrangements available for such passengers who suffer a heart attack, brain haemorrhage and sudden delivery in the train;

(c) whether Government would contemplate to add an additional coach which would be equipped with medical facilities for immediate treatment of these diseases in VIP and long distance trains; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHR R.VELU): (a) to (d) All Passenger carrying trains are provided with First Aid Boxes containing essential drugs and dressing materials and the First Aid Boxes are available with the Guards of all the trains. In addition Augmented First Aid Boxes, with wider range of medicines, disposable medical material, etc., have been provided with the Train Superintendents/Pantry Car Managers of Rajdhani/ Shatabdi Express Trains and in nominated long distance Mail/Express trains. Services of doctors, travelling as passengers, are also utilized to attend to passengers who are in need of urgent medical assistance. The front line staff *viz.* Train Superintendents, Train Conductors, Travelling Ticket Examiners, etc. are also

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.